

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01723 091835Z

61

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 HEW-08 EB-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC, UN, SGEN, SOCI

SUBJ: 56TH ECOSOC SOCIAL COMMITTEE--COMMUNICATIONS ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AND STATUS OF WOMEN

1. SUMMARY. NETHERLANDS FAILED IN SOCIAL COMITE MAY 8
TO RESTORE PREVIOUS PROCEDURE FOR PROCESSING COMMUNICATIONS
ON STATUS OF WOMEN, WHICH WAS DRASTICALLY ALTERED BY SOVIET
INITIATED DECISION PASSED AT JANUARY SESSION OF COMMISSION
ON STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW). DEBATE RESULTED IN DECISION TO
REQUEST SYG TO PREPARE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON UN PROCEDURES
FOR PROCESSING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNICATIONS. US DEL FEARS
THAT SOVIETS AND BRAZILIANS ARE COMBINING IN ECOSOC
TO DESTROY THESE PROCEDURES. END SUMMARY.

2. NETHERLANDS DEL, HEADED BY VAN BOVEN, INTRODUCED ON
MAY 8 DRAFT DECISION TO ANNUL DECISION TAKEN BY CSW
31 JAN 1974 (E/5451, P. 18). NETHERLANDS DRAFT READS
AS FOLLOWS:

"COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING THE STATUS OF WOMEN. THE
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01723 091835Z

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, HAVING CONSIDERED THE REPORT

OF THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE 626TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, HELD ON 31 JANUARY 1974, RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMISSION OF COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING THE STATUS OF WOMEN, INVITES THE COMMISSION TO CONTINUE DEALING WITH THESE ON THE BASIS OF RESOLUTION 76 (V), AS AMENDED BY RES 304.I.(XI), AND ITS SUBSEQUENTLY ESTABLISHED PRACTICE."

3. IN DEBATE WHICH CONSUMED ENTIRE MORNING, SOVIETS, ASSISTED BY POLAND, BRAZIL AND CONGO AND ABETTED BY INEPT INTERVENTIONS BY AUSTRALIAN REP (CURTIN), MANAGED TO ABORT DUTCH INITIATIVE AND RETAIN CSW DECISION. US, UK AND ITALY SPOKE FOR NETHERLANDS DRAFT. AS RESULT PARLIAMENTARY MANUEVERING AT WHICH BRAZILIAN DEL PARTICULARLY SKILLFUL, NETHERLANDS DECISION DRASTICALLY MODIFIED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

"THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, HAVING CONSIDERED THE REPORT OF THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE 626TH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN HELD ON 31 JAN 1974, RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMISSION OF COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING THE STATUS OF WOMEN, TAKES NOTE OF THE DECISION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND REQUESTS THE SYG TO PREPARE FOR THE 58TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL AN EXPLANATORY REPORT ON ALL THE RELEVANT RESES AND PROCEDURES DEALING WITH COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. COMMENT. CSW MADE DECISION THAT COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO STATUS OF WOMEN SHOULD BE HANDLED TOGETHER WITH COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO GROSS AND PERSISTENT VIOLATIONS UNDER ECOSOC RES 1503(XLVIII) AT VERY END OF JAN SESSION. DEBATE WAS BRIEF AND INTRICACIES OF UN PROCEDURES DEALING WITH COMMUNICATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS WERE NOT EXPLORED NOR FULLY UNDERSTOOD. SOVIETS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS SITUATION TO SNEAK IN A DECISION THAT EFFECTIVELY RESTRICTS PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH COMMUNICATIONS ON STATUS OF WOMEN. DEBATE MAY 8 RESULTED IN SOCIAL COMITE TAKING NOTE OF THIS DECISION THEREBY SUSTAINING CSW DECISION. ONLY VOTE ON MANY AMENDMENTS OFFERED WAS ON KEY POLISH AMENDMENT TO ADD WORDS "TAKES NOTE OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01723 091835Z

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN" WHICH PASSED 25-11(US, WEOS)-10. AMENDED DRAFT DECISION THEN PASSED BY CONSENSUS. NETHERLANDS DEL NOT ENTIRELY DISAPPOINTED SINCE THEY POINT OUT THAT ALL THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES WILL NOW BE SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION TO THE 58TH ECOSOC IN FORM OF EXPLANATORY REPORT BY SYG. US DEL FEARS CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN BRAZIL AND USSR DELS AS DEMONSTRATED IN WHISPERED

CONSULTATIONS AND ACTUAL OUTCOME OF DEBATE POSES SERIOUS
THREAT TO FUTURE OF THOSE PROCEDURES. SINCE BRAZIL IS
AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES CITED BY SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION
OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES FOR GROSS
AND RELIABLY ATTESTED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, BRAZILIANS
HAVE APPARENTLY MADE COMMON CAUSE WITH SOVIETS WHO
KNOW THAT THEY COULD AND SHOULD BE CITED ON SAME CHARGE.
RESULT OF COMITE'S ACTION ON NETHERLANDS DRAFT MAY BE
TO EXPOSE ALL UN COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES TO ATTACK
BY THIS FORMIDABLE COMBINATION.
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